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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,440	03/25/2004	Ashish Varma	PA1555 CIP2	6972
28390	7590	07/07/2008	EXAMINER	
MEDTRONIC VASCULAR, INC. IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT 3576 UNOCAL PLACE SANTA ROSA, CA 95403				VU, QUYNH-NHU HOANG
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3763				
NOTIFICATION DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
07/07/2008		ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

rs.vascilegal@medtronic.com

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/808,440	VARMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	QUYNH-NHU H. VU	3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 May 2008.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Amendment and Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed on 5/16/08 has been entered.

Claims 1-14 are present for examination.

Drawings

The drawing objection has been withdrawn in view of the amendments filed on 5/16/08

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The claim rejections under 35 USC §112, 2nd paragraph have been withdrawn in view of amendments filed on 5/16/08.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crittenden et al. (US 4,988,356) in view of Truckai (US 5,019,057).

Crittenden discloses a catheter comprising: a proximal shaft defining a guide wire lumen 26 and an inflation lumen 22 there through, the proximal shaft having a longitudinal cut 28 extending radially from an outer surface of the proximal shaft to the guide wire lumen; wherein the inflation lumen is actuate shaped; a guide member 12 encircling the proximal shaft for proving transverse access to the guide wire lumen via the longitudinal cut.

Crittenden does not disclose a plank-like support strip; a curved reinforcement member disposed adjacent to the inflation lumen; a joint member disposed in the proximal shaft as in claims 1-3.

Truckai discloses many plank-link support strips 18c, 20c entirely embedded within a wall of the proximal shaft and radially disposed between the lumen 12c and an outer surface of proximal shaft; a curved reinforcement member 30 (also it is well-known in the art to provided the curved reinforcement means provided in catheter shaft in, as Applicant Admitted Prior Art (Specification, para [(0056)]; a joint member 32.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Crittenden with a support strip, as taught by Truckai, in order to provide excellent torsional and longitudinal stiffness to the catheter.

Claims 3-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crittenden et al. in view of Truckai and further in view of Casey et al. (US 7,018,372).

Crittenden et al. in view of Truckai discloses the invention substantially as claimed. Truckai discloses a joint member 32 disposed in the proximal shaft.

Casey discloses a joint member 231, 21, 41 (Figs. 45-48) disposed in the shaft at a circumferential location. The joint members made of one of a polyolefin and have the structure and designed similarly to the claimed invention.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the device of Crittenden in view of Truckai with a joint member, as taught by Casey, in order to provide radial strength and kink resistance during advancement of the catheter through a vasculature.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-14 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Quynh-Nhu H. Vu whose telephone number is 571-272-3228. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Nicholas D Lucchesi/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3763

Quynh-Nhu H. Vu
Examiner
Art Unit 3763